

(a) whether they have received petitions from Arukutty and Shertallai regarding the administrative irregularities of Mr. P. N. Sankara Aiyar, Assistant Excise Commissioner, Arukutty;

(b) whether these petitions were forwarded by the Government to the Excise Commissioner and by the latter to Mr. Sankara Aiyar;

(c) whether the Government were able to know the truth of the allegations against Mr. Sankara Aiyar contained in the petitions, on account of the same being forwarded to Mr. Sankara Aiyar himself; and

(d) whether the Government intend to appoint a committee with a non-official majority, to enquire into and report on the allegations contained in these petitions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) Some petitions reported by the Excise Commissioner to be pseudonymous and containing allegations against the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Mr. P. N. Sankara Aiyar, have been received.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have no reason to believe that the forwarding of the petitions to the officer concerned interfered with the Excise Commissioner in ascertaining the truth of the allegations.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

*Excise Circle largely open to Smuggling.*

181. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) which is the Excise Circle where there is the greatest facility for smuggling; and

(b) the length of service, as Assistant Excise Commissioner, of the present incumbent there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) In the Excise Commissioner's opinion it is the Alwaye Division.

(b) Mr. C. T. Ooman B. A., the present Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of the Alwaye Division, has been there since the 1st Kumbham, 1095.

*Publication of Trade Returns.*

182. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any trade returns are published in the *Travancore Economic Journal*, and if so, from what date?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The trade returns do not appear to have been published in the *Economic Journal*. The cause for the omission is being enquired into.